

The Boomer




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459th Air Refueling Wing, U.S. Air Force Reserve, Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

February 2008

Where the heart is



Deployed heroes return
from downrange to
open arms of friends,
family, Pg. 3-5

Team Andrews chills out,
Pg. 6

The Boomer

Vol. 53 No. 2

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On the cover



ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. -- Staff Sgt. Cory Hoffman, 459th Security Forces Squadron combat arms training instructor, holds his child here Jan. 12 during a welcome celebration for redeployers. Thirty-six members of the unit returned safely from Kirkuk, Iraq, Saturday, to cheers, and hugs from friends and family members who lauded the unit's six-month deployment. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Amaani Lyle)

PERSPECTIVE

The Boomer moves from print to World Wide Web in April 2008

**By Staff Sgt. Amaani Lyle
Wing Public Affairs**

As editor of the *The Boomer*, I've had the privilege of getting to learn about many career fields here at the wing, but more importantly, I've gotten to tell the Air Force stories of dozens of Reservists, civilians and family members.

One of the hardest decisions an editor has to make is not necessarily what to write about, but how.

The decision to make a major change in how we report stories in *The Boomer* is only part of the Air Force's larger plan to maximize resources and focus manpower on content, rather than print production.

The March 2008 issue of *The Boomer* will be the last issue that our readers will be able to see in its printed magazine format. From that point forward, all future articles, photos, recognition pieces and briefs will be available solely on the World Wide Web.

Many Air Force public affairs offices have already done away with actual newspapers, opting to report with more immediacy via the Internet, and the 459th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Office will do just the same.

In fact, nearly all of the content in *The Boomer* is typically posted on the Web days,



Staff Sgt. Amaani Lyle

or sometimes, even weeks before the material goes to print in the monthly publication.

Our transition to a solely Web-based publication means you can now get news,

features, and wing information as it happens, without having to wait until next month's issue.

Not having the paper in hand may take some getting used to, as we've all become accustomed to having a paper in our offices, our mailboxes, in our waiting rooms and beyond. However, we stand to enjoy a more enhanced reading experience by now having up-to-the-minute worldwide access to the happenings of our small but mighty wing.

In the meantime, the public affairs office, as well as the wing commander, hope people will visit the Web site at www.459arw.afrc.af.mil to get the latest news and wing updates.

Father of Black History



The national theme for Black History Month 2008 is "Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism." Known as the "Father of Black History," Carter Woodson holds an outstanding position in early 20th century American history. One of his earliest works, "A Century of Negro Migration," traces the impact of slavery, the Civil War and the abolitionists.

He wrote numerous scholarly books and magazine articles on positive contributions of Blacks to the development of America.

He reached out to schools and the general public through the establishment of several key organizations and founded Negro History Week (the precursor to Black History Month). He aimed to instill in pride in Black heritage and help other Americans understand it. (Contributed by Tech. Sgt. Susan Mayer, 459th Military Equal Opportunity Office)

GOOD NEWS

Good news!

459th CC: The commander is excited to start the New Year off right with block training. The commander also attended a basic military training orientation at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, as the Air Force begins its new training program there.

459th CV: Thanks to all for their Bank of America oversight this month. The wing's National Security Personnel System pay pool funding has finally been resolved. There are plenty of deployment opportunities available.

HC: The chaplain staff welcomes their new chaplain assistant.

HC: Master Sgt. Crystal Smith's two youngest children have begun college.

HO: Welcome back to historian, Master Sgt. Keith Loney, who deployed for four months.

FM: Several FM members served temporary duty for contingency training at Pittsburgh Air Refueling Station International Airport, Phila.

459th OG: Congratulations to Lt. Col. David Post on his O-6 selection.

459th ASTS: Deployed members are

setting up training and reported doing well.

459th AMDS: Staff Sgt. Chante Richardson, a PhD/MD student, received all A's this past semester. Col. Arthur Nicholson's daughter graduated Dec. 15.

459th MXG: Tech. Sgt. Sheila Green returned from a deployment to Honduras in January. Lt. Col. David Post's daughter was selected for All State Chorus and his wife has accepted a full time teaching position at Calvert High School. Congratulations to Lt. Col. Muncy on his O-6 selection.

459th MXS/459th AMXS: Capts. Matt Bianchini and Carla Torres are deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq.

459th MSG: Lt. Col. Janet Hagadorn is engaged to be married!

759th LRF: Two deployers have returned.

459th CF: Airman 1st Class Dan Schneider returned from his deployment.

459th SVF: A couple of deployed personnel returned from Dover Air Force Base, Del.

459th SFS: Last month, all members returned safely from their 6-month deployment to the area of responsibility.

459th CES: Preliminary feedback on Operational Readiness Inspection preparation is very positive.

69th APS: More than 40 deployers returned in January. Senior Master Sgt. Jennifer Hutcherson returned from maternity leave.

459th LRF: Chief Master Sgt. Stevie Gray's son made the dean's list and his daughter entered a master's degree program.

459th AES: Master Sgt. Roxann Edwards earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Wilmington.

Master Sgt. Derrick Wright was awarded the Air Force Entertainment 2007 Golden Roger Award, which recognizes those that have devoted their time and expertise to the Tops In Blue program.

756th ARS: The squadron recently held a pilot's board; two qualified candidates were interviewed.

459th OSF: Lt. Col. Jay Pyles is finally off of his crutches. Master Sgt. Phil Rahn is improving and recovering.



We
salute
you!



Heroes' welcome!

BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, Md. -- Friends and family members cheered as members of the 69th Aerial Port Squadron returned from the area of responsibility Jan. 16 after a four-month deployment. Members participated in operations that include but were not limited to palletizing and transporting aircraft parts and ammunition, hazardous and special material, and various other supplies to streamline hub-and-spoke missions. (U.S. Air Force photo/Lt. Col. Michael E. Laughton)

FEATURE

ALL PRESENT

Thirty-six members of the 459th Security Forces Squadron returned safely here from Kirkuk, Iraq, Saturday, to cheers, tears and hugs from friends and family members who lauded the unit's six-month deployment.



Top, Senior Airman Ashley holds her daughter during the homecoming of Sgt. Richard Twitchell, 459th Security Forces Squadron, with Master Sgt. Kim Doran, left.

AND 459th Sec

*Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Amaani Lyle
Wing Public Affairs*

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE
— Thirty-six members of the 459th Security Forces Squadron returned from Kirkuk, Iraq, Saturday, to cheers and hugs from friends and family members who lauded the unit's six-month deployment.

"We've been gone for 184 days, and it's counting," quipped Senior Airman Daniel Paugh, a returning 459th member.



Left, Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Gibbons, 459th SFS chief enlisted manager looks for his luggage upon his return here. Below, Staff Sgt. Duane Hill, 459th Security Forces Squadron fire team member, sorts through bags with Senior Airman Joshua Kapnek, 459th SFS fire team member, Jan. 12 during a celebration for redeployers.



Airman Ashley Raley, 459th SFS fire team member, laughs during the welcome celebration. Below, Staff Sgt. Twitchell, 459th SFS security journeyman, catches up with Sgt. Kim Doran, 459th SFS assistant superintendent.



AND ACCOUNTED FOR!

h Security Forces Squadron returns from Kirkuk

Photos by
Maani Lyle

S AIR FORCE BASE, Md. members of the 459th Security Forces Squadron returned safely here from Iraq, Saturday, to cheers, tears and hugs from friends and family members. The unit's six-month deployment was over. "I've been gone for 184 days ... but I'm home," quipped Senior Airman [Name] as a returning 459th SFS crafts-

man who conducted force protection and anti-terrorism measures in the area of responsibility.

The Airman added that austere conditions not only described inherent dangers in entry control, investigations and base-to-base perimeter patrol, but in the weather. "It was 120-degrees when we arrived (to Kirkuk) and 20-degrees when we left," Airman Paugh said. "So we definitely got the full gamut of weather conditions."

Weather and other variables notwithstanding, the late-night arrival here didn't

damper the embraces of bright-eyed returnees and enthusiastic family members, nor the appreciation of their unit.

"Thank God they're home," said Maj. Jennifer Lawler, 459th SFS commander. "There's really no other way to put into words what it's like to have them all back, safe and sound."

Major Lawler asserted that there were unsung heroes at the celebration among the sea of returnees in desert camouflage.

"The sacrifices these family members make cannot be overstated," the major said.

"The uniforms couldn't do what they do downrange were it not for the unwavering support and dedication of family members who keep things going while our members are away."

“It was 120-degrees when we arrived (to Kirkuk) and 20-degrees when we left.”

Team Andrews takes chilly dip for charity at Polar Bear Plunge

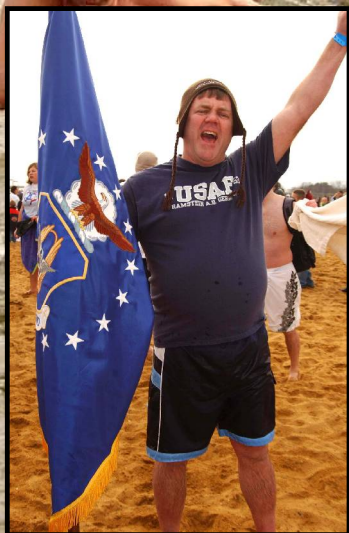
**Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Amaani Lyle
Wing Public Affairs**

ANNAPOLIS, Md. – Slim temperatures and generous donations met at the Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge at Sandy Point Park here Saturday.

Team Andrews members of the 459th Air Refueling Wing and the 79th Medical Wing were among nearly 9,000 people who voluntarily jumped into the Chesapeake Bay to raise money for Special Olympics Maryland. According to the event's Web site, organizers listed proceeds at more than \$3 million.

Tech. Sgt. Warren Hiller, 459th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, organized the wing's nine-member team, *Crazy Yankee*, which brought more than \$1,300 in donations to the table.

(Holding flags, left to right) Lt. Col. David Post, 459th Maintenance Group, Col. Stayce D. Harris, 459th Air Refueling Wing commander, and Tech. Sgt. Warren Hiller, 459th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, splash around in the chilly Chesapeake Bay during the Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge Jan. 26. Behind the flag holders are additional "Crazy Yankee" team members (second from left) Tech. Sgts. John Nicklas and Eric Darago, 459th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; civilian contractor Cedric Quick; Airman Chantal Brown, 459th Maintenance Operations Flight; and Tech. Sgt. Paige Stoner, 79th Medical Wing.



Inset, Tech. Sgt. Warren Hiller, 459th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, victoriously holds the Air Force Reserve Command flag during the MSP Polar Bear Plunge Jan. 26.

"I feel great – I think I finally warmed up," Sergeant Hiller said a couple of days after the event.

Sergeant Hiller added that his team members already look forward to participating in next year's Polar Bear Plunge, the daylong festival featuring live music, food and most of all, bone-numbing water.

Some participants, such as Cassandra Tressler, better known as Miss Maryland, U.S.A. 2008, opted to stay out of the water, but still showed their support for the fundraising cause.

The event's popularity prompted organizers to add several plunges to the day's agenda to accommodate the daring dippers. One team, known as the Super Plungers, amazingly pledged to take one frosty dip, each hour, for 24 hours beginning Friday.

Temperatures remained in the 30s or below throughout the day, and though heated tents buffered the chill of freezing water on die-hard dippers, most people quickly learned that the more clothing they donned in the water, the more they froze when they returned to dry land.

Newcomers

Lt Col David Camire, 459th OSF
 Lt Col Angela Moorecumings, 459th AES
 Lt Col Juan Narvaez, 459th AMDS
 Maj Gerald Anderson, 459th AES
 Maj Jennie Cumberbatch-Smith, 459th AES
 Maj Elaine Miller, 459th ASTS
 Maj Matthew Sommer, 459th AES
 Capt Cinnamon Dahlberg, 459th ASTS
 Capt Elizabeth Michael, 459th AES
 MSgt Towana Bowden, 459th ARW
 MSgt Maryann Greer, 459th AES
 TSgt Scott Britt, 459th AMXS
 TSgt Kendrick Gittens, 459th ASTS
 SSgt Marjorie Altino, 459th AES
 SSgt Chrispin Cox, 459th CF
 SSgt Lela Gerrins, 459th ASTS
 SSgt Lawrence Givens, 459th CF
 SSgt Errol Hassell, 459th MXS
 SSgt Lauren Hewitt, 459th OSF
 SSgt Susan Mosher, 459th SFS

SSgt Quincy Parker, 459th CF
 SSgt Travis Plank, 69th APS
 SSgt Matthew Robertson, 459th AMXS
 SSgt Hassane Sonko, 459th ASTS
 SSgt Jason Shanley, 459th CES
 SSgt Calvin Webster, 459th CF
 SrA Janitza DeJesus, 459th ASTS
 SrA Joshica Kiah, 459th MOF
 SrA James Laska, 459th CES
 SrA Annetia Robinson, 459th LRF
 SrA TeQuita Simms, 459th SVF
 SrA Christine Smith, 459th ASTS
 SrA Isaac Warren, 69th APS
 SrA Marlon Yarde, 459th LRF
 A1C Brian Casey, 459th CES
 A1C Sabrina Dixon, 459th SFS
 A1C Nicole Dove, 459th ARW
 A1C Adam Stanton, 459th CES
 A1C Hope Waldron, 459th AES
 A1C Melanie Woodham, 459th CES

Promotions



Colonel

David Goldblum
 Al Lupenski
 Russell Muncy
 Scott Patnode
 David Post



Master Sergeant

Precious Sherry Notar
 Brian Stanforth



Technical Sergeant

John Davis
 Charles Howard

Lisa Mulrine
 Marisol Salgado
 Eugene Sthilaire II

Staff Sergeant

Nancy Almonte
 Bhuneshwari Budhai
 Kevin Doran
 Serena Gibson
 Dequincy Reed
 Antoine Skrine



Senior Airman

William Jones
 Dominique Wilson



Community Briefs

Christmas in April seeks help

The 459th ARW seeks skilled and unskilled for light handy work April 26. The wing has signed up to sponsor District Height, Md., home in need of repair.

The program is designed to assist low-income homeowners, the elderly and disabled, and families with children to live in warmth, safety and independence.

Family members age 15 or older are welcome to come help. For details, sign up with unit first sergeants or call Chief Master Sgt. Patti Hickman at DSN 857-2934.

First sergeants wanted

There are currently two first sergeant vacancies, one each in the 459th Security Forces Squadron, and the 459th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

Candidates must be an E-7 or immediately eligible for promotion to E-7, and should be outstanding and willing to exceed the standard.

Applicants must submit a statement explaining why they want to be a first shirt, and all packages must include a recommendation letter from their squadron commander, up to two additional letters of recommendation. Applicants must also produce their current fit to fight score and both their civilian and military career résumé (separate or combined).

Applications are due to the military personnel flight by March 28. For details, call Chief Master Sgt. Patti Hickman at 240-857-2934.

FLIGHTLINE

What's your favorite Valentine's Day candy?



Master Sgt. Felicia Mootry, 459th Aerospace Medical Squadron

"Monsieur Chocolate -- it's good, traditional, and makes people smile."



Senior Airman Amber Peterson, 459th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

"Red Hots -- they're really sweet and they sting your mouth."

FY 2008 UTA

March 1-2, Alt 15-16
 April 5-6, Alt 19-20
 May 3-4, Alt 17-18
 June 7-8, Alt 21-22
 July 12-13, Alt 19-20
 Aug 2-3, Alt 16-17
 Sept 6-7, Alt 20-21

Wing recruiter stars shine at conference

By Capt. Tynisha Jones-Vincent
Wing Public Affairs

When it comes to recruiting, the 459th Air Refueling Wing's recruiting team symbolizes excellence.

At the annual recruiting conference Oct. 23, in Savannah, Ga., the 459th Recruiting Service took home several awards to include the organizational excellence award.

This award is given to recruiting units that achieve at least 110 percent of the annual goal.

The 459th ARW/RS surpassed that benchmark at 134 percent to win the award for the sixth time after five consecutive years.

The awards were presented by Maj. Gen. Allan Poulin, Air Force Reserve Vice Commander and Col. Francis Mungavin, Air Force Reserve Recruiting Service commander.

Senior Master Sgt. Rondey Bullock, 459th ARW/RS senior recruiter, was proud of their accomplishments and reflected on the enjoyment of being a recruiter.

"As a military professional, it is very satisfying to know that recruiting has a direct impact on our war fighting capability by providing qualified airman at the tip of the spear," he said.

The secret to the unit's success lies with its people. All nine of its production recruiters surpassed the 100 percent goal.

Seven out of nine recruiters received the Bronze award for making more than 110 percent of their goal. They are as follows:

Master Sgt. Jesse Boyer
Master Sgt. Roy Blanchard
Master Sgt. Christine Novinger
Master Sgt. Jeanette Masters
Master Sgt. Avril Mitchell

Tech. Sgt. Mathew Laney

Sergeant Masters became a member of the covenant "Century Club" by recruiting more than 192 percent of her goal, shattering the 150 percent mark needed to win the award.

Sergeant Boyer also became a member of the covenant "Century Club;" he achieved 183 percent of his annual goal.

Sergeant Blanchard was nationally ranked number 25 among all recruiters in the Air Force Reserve Recruiting Service and Sergeant Bullock was awarded Top Senior Recruiter for 604th Numbered Air Force.

Sergeant Boyer believes the unit's success is a reflection of the hard work and dedication to the total team.

"Most importantly, the enthusiasm of the American public to join the Air Force helps its success," he said.



Heroes' welcome! Part II

BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, Md. -- Master Sgt. Keith Loney, 459th Air Refueling Wing historian, returned here Jan. 16 following a four-month deployment. (Inset) Tech. Sgt. Joey Keyes, 459th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, also returned the same day. (U.S. Air Force photos/Capt. Tim Smith)



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